

REMARKS

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's determination that claims 24 and 28-33 contain allowable subject matter (Office Action, dated June 10, 2003, page 3, line 20, to page 4, line 2).

Claims 8, 9, 19-35, 37 and 39-46 have been canceled without prejudice. Applicant reserves the right to file a divisional application to the non-elected subject matter of claims 8, 9, 19-23, 25-27, 34, 35, 37 and 39-45.

Claims 1 and 38 have been amended and new claims 47-57 have been added. Specifically, claim 1 had been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 24. Thus, claim 1 now has the same scope as claim 24. Claim 38 has been amended to depend upon claim 47.

New claims 47, 48, 50, 52, 54 and 56 have been added to rewrite the allowable subject matter of claims 28-33, respectively, in independent format. Thus, new claims 47, 48, 50, 52, 54 and 56 have the same scope as claims 28-33, respectively. New claims 49, 51, 53, 55 and 57 recite subject matter similar to claim 36, and depend upon claims 48, 50, 52, 54 and 56, respectively.

The present amendment adds no new matter to the application and raises no new issues.

Applicants also file a supplemental Information Disclosure Statement with the present amendment and respectfully request that the references be considered by the Examiner.

Conclusion

The present amendment incorporates allowable subject matter from claims 24 and 28-33 into independent claims 1 and 47, 48, 50, 52, 54 and 56, respectively. All remaining claims depend directly or indirectly upon an allowable base claim. Therefore, all claims are allowable.

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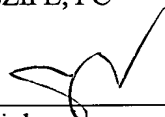
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For these and all of the above reasons, claims 1, 2, 36, 38 and 47-57 are believed to be in condition for allowance and a prompt Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Questions are welcomed by the below-signed attorney for applicants.

Respectfully submitted,

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